

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraphs starting on page 4, line 14 through page 5, line 6 and replace with the following replacement paragraph(s):

Further, the secondary locking mechanism 5 has detent arms 8a, 8b (Fig. 2), which will be explained in more detail in the following, and are formed like a tuning fork in the example of embodiment which is shown, with beveled free ends 11a, 11b, on which are found catch pieces pointing outward. At the beginning of the plugging-in process of the plug-in connector, the secondary locking mechanism is supported by these free ends 11a, 11b in its mating connector 7, supported at the edges ~~of a slot~~ 9 of an opening in the mating connector. The secondary locking mechanism 5 is attached by means of four spiral-shaped pressure springs at the back housing part 2 seen in the direction of plugging in, in the example of embodiment shown. The pressure springs are aligned coaxially to the direction of plugging in. In the state as supplied, i.e., the two housing parts 2, 3 are locked with one another, the pressure springs 10a to 10d are either almost not compressed at all or are only very slightly compressed. A slight compression serves to protect the connector from chattering.

The back housing part 2 has ~~longitudinal slots~~ on opposite-lying sides, longitudinal slots 14 perpendicular to ~~in~~ the direction of plugging ~~in, from~~ into which project pieces 13a, 13b, which are formed on the

secondary locking mechanism 5, project. A detaching aid 12 is plugged onto these pieces 13a, 13b by means of slot 14 in its side walls, and this aid surrounds the housing 2, 3 at least partially. This detaching aid can be moved by an operator in the direction opposite the plugging-in direction against the action of the force of the pressure springs 10a to 10d, whereby the locking tongues 6a, 6b and the detent arms 8a, 8b can be pulled out of the mating connector and the plug connection can be detached.

Please delete the paragraphs starting on page 6, lines 5-16 and replace with the following replacement paragraphs:

The final position of plug-in connector 1 in mating connector 7 is shown in Fig. 4, i.e., the locking arms 4a, 4b are engaged behind shoulders, which are not shown here, of mating connector 7. The plugging-in process has been produced against the spring force of pressure springs 10a to 10d, which are now all almost completely compressed. In this state, the detent arms 8a, 8b are still continually supported at the edges 9 of the mentioned slots opening in the mating connector 7. This state changes abruptly, right after the detent arms 4a, 4b are snapped in.

Fig. 5 shows this state, i.e., a slight pressure loading in the plugging-in direction of the plug-in connector 1 leads to the condition that the detent arms 8a, 8b are slipped out, pressed away from the edges 9 of the slots opening in the mating connector 7, by ramps disposed on

housing part 3 and the detent arms 8a, 8b are catapulted into the slot by the force of pressure springs 10a to 10d, so that the secondary locking mechanism 5 snaps into its final position, whereby the tongues 6a, 6b are introduced into the ~~slots~~ opening behind the detent arms 4a, 4b.